

IN THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is a Replacement Sheet for each of Figs. 9 and 10, wherein those figures are now identified as Prior Art.

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action certain discrepancies were pointed out in the Specification of this application with respect to pages 2, 3, 4, and 10. These discrepancies have now been corrected by means of the foregoing amendment. Also, as required in the Office Action, Figs. 9 and 10 have been labeled PRIOR ART on Replacement Sheets, which Replacement Sheets are attached to this amendment and the Abstract has been amended as required. Furthermore, this is to acknowledge that the claims in the application were rejected primarily in view of the disclosure of the cited Ochi patent, whereas the disclosure of the cited Hamasaki patent was also relied upon for rejecting Claim 4 as being obvious. By this response, however, all but Claims 4, 5, 11, 13, 17, and 19-23 have been cancelled, wherein Claims 17 and 23 are the only independent claims remaining in the application, and those claims have been amended so that they are now patentably distinct over the disclosures of the cited references.

In particular, independent Claims 17 and 23 are directed to an image reading apparatus for a transparent original, wherein those now require

“wherein said transparent original illuminating device is provided at its transparent original side with a plurality of urging portions disposed at positions corresponding to an out of an image area of the transparent original and protruded, less than a depth of field of said lens, above a light emitting surface, and the transparent original is urged against said transparent original plate by said urging portions”

In this regard, the phrase “less than a depth of field of said lens” is added so as to incorporation a feature of now-cancelled Claim 18; “light generating surface” is change to

--light emitting surface--; and support of the phrase “in a width direction of the transparent original” is added in Claim 19, is shown in the drawings at Figs. 15 and 16.

Referring to the cited prior art, the cited Ochi patent discloses film supporting rollers 75 and 76 that are outside three frames of images in the center, but they are arranged in the width direction thereof. Therefore, there is high possibility that they touch a right or left frame of image. In contrast, according to the present invention, such trouble is removed by the configuration of “urging portions disposed at positions corresponding to an out of an image area of the transparent original”. Also, in Ochi a roll film is not bent if it is set up between DC motor 31 and take-up spool 32. But, when a normal 35 mm film is used (see col. 15, lines 50-60) (normally cut every several frames), it has a tendency to be readily bent. Accordingly, it will frequently get bent between plane lighting unit 74 and platen glass 100. If a space between the plane lighting unit 74 and the platen glass 100 is not small, a bent state of the film cannot be eliminated. In this case, an image which is not focused by lens 52 is read. In addition, in such a reading apparatus as disclosed in Ochi, a roll film is pulled out from a cartridge, and the plane lighting unit 74 is not disposed near the film passing plane 13C so as to prevent the film from being scratched.

As for the cited Hamasaki patent, that reference discloses that a rod lens array is employed for reading an original. However, unlike the present invention, the rod lens array is not used for reading a transparent original.

For these various reasons, Applicants believe that the claims as now presented are allowable, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to
Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by
telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address
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Respectfully submitted,

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